

III. REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1,7 and 12 are amended. Claims 1-12 are presented for further consideration.

Responsive Remarks

Applicant is appreciative of the Examiner's time and helpful comments in the Interview of January 11, 2007. Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 7, and 12 of this application in response to the Examiner's comments. These amendments are intended to address the concerns of the Examiner and her supervisor. With these amendments, Applicant submits that the claims of this application are distinguished over the cited art and that the claims are in condition for allowance.

These amendments are submitted after final rejection in order to place the claims in condition for allowance or in the alternative to place the claims in better condition for appeal. Applicant submits that such amendments are properly entered under 37USC1.116 and accordingly, Examiner is requested to enter these amendments.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the pending rejections in view of the above amendments.

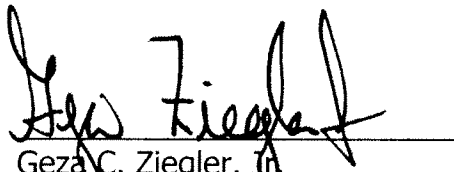
Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

10/027,867

Response to the Office Action mailed October 4, 2006

Respectfully submitted,


Geza C. Ziegler, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,004

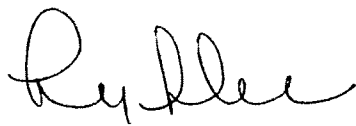
19 JAN 2007
Date

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CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted electronically, on the date indicated below, addressed to the Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 19 January 2007

Signature: 
Lisa Shimizu
Person Making Deposit